

below for the Examiner's convenience. A marked-up copy, showing the changes made to the claims, is attached.

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DI 1. (Amended Three Times) A process for producing a fibrous material comprising:

providing a spun yarn by melt spinning a thermoplastic resin; and

subjecting the spun yarn to a glycol treatment in which the spun yarn is contacted with an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol having a cloud point of at least 65°C, whereby at least some releasable components of the spun yarn are emulsified or made water-soluble by the glycol treatment.

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2. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the glycol treatment is at least one treatment selected from among

(1) a treatment for applying the glycol to the yarn;

(2) a treatment for replacing a releasable component releasable into an ink in the yarn by the glycol to reduce an amount of the releasable component; and

(3) a treatment for dissolving or emulsifying the releasable component in the yarn in the glycol.

3. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 1 or 2, which comprises steps of:

treating a melt spun yarn with a spinning oil,

stretching the resultant unstretched yarn, and

treating the stretched yarn with a finishing oil.

4. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 3, wherein the glycol treatment is conducted as at least one step selected from among

- a) a step of contacting a spun yarn with the glycol which is contained in a spinning oil at the time of melt spinning to apply the glycol to the spun yarn;
- b) a step of contacting an unstretched yarn with a treating agent containing the glycol after melt spinning;
- c) a step of contacting an unstretched melt spun yarn with a treating agent containing the glycol during a step of stretching the unstretched yarn;
- d) a step of contacting a stretched yarn with the glycol which is contained in a finishing oil; and
- e) a step of contacting a yarn obtained after the stretching with a treating agent containing the glycol.

5. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the content of the glycol in the spinning oil in the step a) or in the finishing oil in the step d) is at least 80% by weight.

6. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the releasable component in the yarn is at least one of additives contained in the

thermoplastic resin which constitutes the yarn and components derived from the spinning oil and finishing oil attached to the yarn.

11. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

12. (Unamended From Previous Version) Amended) The process according to Claim 11, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity.

13. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 11, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

14. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the treating agent containing the glycol is composed of the glycol alone.

15. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

16. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 1 or 15, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

17. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 16, wherein the glycol is combined with a lubricant for a cutter blade for fiber or a lubricant for a sliding part of a mold for a hot-molded material.

18. (Unamended From Previous Version) A fibrous material produced in accordance with the production process according to Claim 1.

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D2 19. (Amended Three Times) An ink-absorbing member constructed to deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, comprising the fibrous material according to Claim 18.

20. (Amended Three Times) A fibrous material composed of a thermoplastic resin, which is treated by a glycol treatment in which an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol having a cloud point of at least 65°C is added, whereby at least some releasable components of the thermoplastic resin are emulsified or made water-soluble by the glycol treatment.

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21. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

22. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 20 or 21, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

23. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 22, wherein the glycol is acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

24. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 23, wherein the glycol exhibits an anionionic surface activity.

25. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 23, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

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DB 30. (Amended Four Times) An ink-absorbing member constructed to deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, comprising the fibrous material according to Claim 20.

31. (Amended Three Times) A process for treating an ink-absorbing member which can deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, the process comprising the steps of:

treating a molding comprising a fibrous material composed of a thermoplastic resin with a treating agent containing an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol having a cloud point of

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at least 65°C, whereby at least some releasable components of the thermoplastic resin are emulsified or made water-soluble by the treating agent.

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32. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 31, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

33. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 32, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity.

34. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 32, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

35. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 34, wherein the treating agent containing the glycol is composed of the glycol alone.

36. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 35, wherein the glycol is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an alkali.

37. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 36, wherein the aqueous solution of the alkali is an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide.

38. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 31, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

39. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 38, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

42. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink-absorbing member treated in accordance with the treatment process according to any one of Claims 31 to 39 or 82.

47. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink tank container for an ink-jet head comprising an ink chamber having an opening part communicating with air and an ink feed opening connecting to the ink-jet head, wherein the ink-absorbing member according to either one of Claims 19 or 30 is fitted within a region including the ink feed opening in the ink chamber.

48. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink tank container according to Claim 47, wherein the ink-absorbing member is provided in contact with the ink feed opening.

49. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink tank container for an ink-jet head comprising an ink chamber having an opening part communicating with air, and a connecting chamber connectable to the ink-jet head, the connecting chamber communicating with the ink chamber and being constructed to feed an ink from the ink chamber to the ink-jet head through a connecting opening to the ink-jet head, wherein the ink-absorbing member according to either one of Claims 19 or 30 is fitted within the connecting chamber for providing a negative pressure.

50. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink tank container according to Claim 49, wherein the ink-absorbing member is provided in contact with the connecting opening.

51. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink tank in which an ink-jet ink is charged into the ink chamber of the ink tank container according to Claim 49.

52. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink-jet cartridge comprising the ink tank according to Claim 51 and an ink-jet head for ejecting an ink contained in the ink tank on a recording medium to conduct recording.



53. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink-jet apparatus comprising the ink-jet cartridge according to Claim 52 and a carriage on which the ink-jet cartridge is detachably mounted.

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54. (Amended Three Times) A treating process for regenerating ink absorbing properties of an ink-absorbing member composed principally of a fibrous material, the process comprising the step of:

D4 treating the ink-absorbing member with a residual ink held therein with a treating agent containing an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol having a cloud point of at least 65°C, whereby at least some releasable components of the fibrous material are emulsified or made water-soluble by the treating agent.

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55. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 54, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

56. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 55, wherein the glycol exhibits nonionic surface activity.

57. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 55, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

58. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to any one of Claims 54 to 57, wherein the treating agent containing the glycol is composed of the glycol alone.

59. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 58, wherein the glycol is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an alkali.

60. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 59, wherein the aqueous solution of the alkali is an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide.

61. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 60, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

62. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 61, wherein the fibrous material is a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

65. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink jet contacting member comprising the fibrous material according to Claim 18.

68. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 18, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

69. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 68, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity.

70. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 68, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide is from 3 to 30.

71. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

72. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink contacting member comprising the fibrous material according to Claim 20.

73. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink contacting member according to Claim 72, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having

at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

74. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink contacting member according to Claim 73, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity.

75. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink contacting member according to Claim 73, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide is from 3 to 30.

76. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink contacting member according to Claim 72, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

79. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process of Claim 1, wherein the glycol has a cloud point of at least 80°C.

80. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material of Claim 18, wherein the glycol has a cloud point of at least 80°C.

81. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material of Claim 20, wherein the glycol has a cloud point of at least 80°C.

82. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process of Claim 31, wherein the glycol has a cloud point of at least 80°C.

83. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process of Claim 54, wherein the glycol has a cloud point of at least 80°C.

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84. (Amended) A fibrous material obtained by a process comprising the steps of:

DB melt-spinning a thermoplastic resin comprising additives with spinning oil and forming a yarn; and

replacing the additives and spinning oil contained in or attached to the spun yarn by treating the spun yarn with a glycol treatment containing an ethylene oxide adduct of glycol having a cloud point of at least 65°C.

85. (Amended) A fibrous material for an ink-absorbing member holding an ink-jet ink, obtained by a process comprising the steps of:

melt-spinning a thermoplastic resin comprising additives with spinning oil and forming a yarn, the additives and spinning oil giving effect to ink-jet properties of the ink-jet ink; and

treating the spun yarn with a glycol treatment containing an ethylene oxide adduct of glycol having a cloud point of at least 65°C, the treating step being performed so that the ink-jet ink is free from any effect of the additives and spinning oil.

86. (Amended) A fibrous material for an ink-absorbing member holding an ink-jet ink, obtained by a process comprising the steps of:

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melt-spinning a thermoplastic rein comprising additives with spinning oil and forming a yarn; and

replacing the additives and spinning oil contained in or attached to the spun yarn by treating the spun yarn with a glycol treatment containing an ethylene oxide adduct of glycol having a cloud point of at least 65°C, and emulsifying the additives and spinning oil with the ethylene oxide adduct of glycol, so that the ink-jet ink is free from any effects of the additives and spinning oil.

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Please add Claims 87 to 95, as follows:

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87. (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the glycol treatment includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

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88. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 18, wherein the glycol treatment includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

89. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 20, wherein the glycol treatment includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

90. (New) The process according to Claim 31, wherein the treating agent includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

91. (New) The ink absorbing member according to Claim 42, wherein the treating agent includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

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cont 92. (New) The treating process according to Claim 54, wherein the treating agent includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

93. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 84, wherein the glycol treatment includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

94. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 85, wherein the glycol treatment includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

95. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 86, wherein the glycol treatment includes at least 70% glycol by weight.

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